

EMSSAB CHAIRS
Bi-Monthly Conference Call
Thursday, February 16, 2006
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Participants

Chairs/Representatives:

Fernald	Sue Walpole, Doug Sarno
Hanford	Todd Martin, Shirley Olinger, Lynn Lefkoff, Shelly Cimon, Susan Leckband
Idaho	David Kipping, Shannon Brennan, Lisa Aldrich, Larry Knight, William Flanery
Nevada	Kathleen Peterson, Carla Sanda
NNM	Grace Perez, Christina Houston, Menice Santistevan
Oak Ridge	Norm Mulvenon, Rhonda Bogard, Pete Osborne, Spencer Gross
Paducah	Not represented
Rocky Flats	Gerald DePoorter, Ken Korkia
Savannah River	Karen Patterson, Gerri Flemming, Dawn Haygood

DOE representatives:

EM-30.1	Melissa Nielson, Doug Frost, Patricia Atkinson-Brown
CI	Betty Nolan

OPENING REMARKS

Melissa Nielson welcomed everyone.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Briefing – Jim Simpson

Jim Simpson of EM's Office of Budget provided an overview of the FY 2007 budget, which was recently rolled out. He noted that the FY 2007 budget request for EM is contained in three appropriations, rather than the five in FY 2006. As a result, funding for each site is contained in one location, which is easier to follow. He noted that in FY 2007 EM's budget will decrease due to site closures and transfer of responsibilities to the Office of Legacy Management. Mr. Simpson also answered specific questions concerning individual sites' budgets. A summary of the EM budget appears on the EM Web site at:

http://web.em.doe.gov/budget_docs.html

Agenda for the April Chairs' Meeting

Pete Osborne referenced the latest draft of the agenda and asked for comments. Todd Martin asked if it were possible to arrange the agenda so that round robin discussion of key site issues could be scheduled in close proximity to Assistant Secretary Rispoli's presentation, in the event that he has the time to attend additional presentations. There was general agreement to try to re-arrange the schedule to allow this.

Meeting registration packets and templates for the top three issues at each site will be mailed out the week of February 21.

The tour of the Oak Ridge Reservation will include the Y-12 Security Complex. A photo ID and an original copy of proof of citizenship are required.

Dates for the September Chairs' Meeting

Menice Santistevan stated that the next Chairs' meeting will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The travel day is September 5. The tour/workshop will begin on September 6.

EM Headquarters Reorganization

Ms. Nielson stated that the reorganization is expected to be in effect by April 15. The Office of Internal/External Coordination will return to its previous name of the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Activity and move under Frank Marcinowski, who will be the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory Compliance.

SITE SUMMARIES

Savannah River – Karen Patterson

- The Board has submitted its 2006 Work Plan.
- The Board has a new chair, Karen Patterson, from Aiken, SC and a new vice chair, Donna Antonucci, who teaches in Savannah, GA.
- NRC has approved the waste determination for the low-Curie salt disposal in the Low-level Waste Salt Disposal Facility. Disposal should begin in late May or early June.
- DOE has decided to upgrade the Salt Waste Processing Facility, which will delay the project by two years and add \$1 billion in life-cycle costs. The Board is not convinced the upgrade will reduce risk, and will be meeting to further discuss this issue.
- F-Canyon, which was in the process of being decontaminated and decommissioned, is being considered for a pilot spent fuel recycling research project.
- The Board has eight new members, or one-third of the Board. Orientation will occur in early March.

Rocky Flats – Ken Korkia

- The Federal class-action lawsuit, called the Cook case, filed by property owners surrounding Rocky Flats had been dragging on for 15 years. This week, a jury awarded the property owners \$540 million in damages, although the actual award may be less. There is a great deal of press and public interest.

Paducah – Jeannie Brandstetter (These notes were not provided on the call, but were submitted afterward.)

- The Board is having some difficulty with its FY 2006 budget because the contracted amount doesn't match the amount budgeted for the CAB. The Board is pursuing this issue.
- A membership package for three new appointments was forwarded to the site office on February 3.

Oak Ridge – Norman Mulvenon

- The Board conducted a workshop for 24 high school teachers on use of the Board's Stewardship Education Resource Kit. There were presentations by Board members and DOE, as well as hands-on activities. Evaluations were very favorable.
- The Board discussed a recommendation to employ independent verification for East Tennessee Technology Park. The recommendation will go forward in March.
- In the past year, the Board has 10 new members, or 50% of the Board. The Board is putting increased emphasis on education and has set up a mentoring program.
- The Board has had two new members in January, but also another resignation.
- The Board has set up a recommendation tracking system.
- The Board's annual report will be sent out shortly.

Northern New Mexico – Grace Perez

- The Board is preparing for a public forum on groundwater. The forum will occur May 17 at Los Alamos High School. There was recently a finding of chromium in the regional aquifer under Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).
- The Board is awaiting the transition to the new management team at LANL, which is scheduled to occur in June.

Nevada – Carla Sanda

- The Board had a public meeting last week in Pahrump. At the meeting, the Underground Test Area Committee announced its recommendations for future well sites at the Nevada Test Site. The Board's long-standing concern is

groundwater contamination resulting from past underground nuclear tests. Formal recommendations are being sent to DOE headquarters.

- The Board wrote a formal letter to DOE concerning budget issues.
- The Board is in the middle of a recruitment campaign and anticipates bringing on eight new members, approximately one-third of the Board. The Board is also focused on orientation, training and possible mentoring.
- The Board is beginning its annual budget prioritization activity for the FY 2008 budget.

Idaho – David Kipping

- At its last meeting, the Board dealt with low-level and mixed low-level waste.
- During the excavation of buried transuranic waste in December 2005, two drums caught fire. The good news is that there were no injuries or damage to equipment. However, there is great concern about how this happened. As a result, the entire excavation has been shut down and an investigation is under way.
- According to the Idaho settlement agreement, the site is expected to ship 6,000 cubic meters of stored transuranic waste to WIPP each year. For the year ending on December 31, 2005, this milestone was not met. The milestone will be met by February or March of this year.
- The Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility is in full operation and should be able to meet upcoming milestones.
- Progress is being made in closing the Tank Farm. Three tanks still have liquid waste; the rest have been cleaned. The regulatory procedure for closing and grouting the emptied tanks is underway and working well. DOE has decided to use steam reforming to convert the liquid waste still in the remaining tanks into a solid form.
- The Board has had a number of resignations, as well as three members who are reaching their term limits. Seven of the 15 members will be new appointments.

Hanford – Todd Martin

- The Washington State Department of Ecology and DOE recently settled a lawsuit on disposal of waste. The settlement directs DOE to complete a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the largest EIS ever done at Hanford. It will cover closure of the high-level tank waste, disposal of the off-site waste, and comprehensive analysis of groundwater. The Board is pleased with the settlement.
- The Board has provided advice on the EIS scoping process and DOE has responded positively, extending the period for comments.
- The waste treatment plant to vitrify high-level tank waste is going to take longer and cost more than originally expected. The Board is currently prioritizing the cleanup work in the cleanup agreement.
- The Board is studying issues associated with groundwater.
- The Board completed a tutorial on worker health and safety monitoring at the site.

- The Board has a new facilitation contract with its long-standing contractor, EnviroIssues. The new contract includes scope for assistance with SSAB work.
- Hanford is undergoing its second CERCLA Five-Year Review. A draft of the document is due out soon. The Board will be reviewing the document.
- The Board's annual report has been published

Fernald – Sue Walpole and Doug Sarno

- Fernald is weeks away from completing cleanup. By March, the material from the silos will be off site. At that point, cleanup will be 98% complete.
- There will be no Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO) at Fernald. There is interest in forming a community-based, non-profit organization focused on the long-term historical and educational aspects of the site, and of citizen interaction at the site. The Board is supporting this.
- The Board will be wrapping up its work by September.

OTHER UPDATES

Congressional Update – Betty Nolan

This is the height of the Congressional hearing season. The Secretary has been testifying often. It is a very tight budget year. Markups begin from April to June. Votes on the budget will begin in June.

Assistant Secretary Rispoli will testify before the House Armed Services Committee on March 1, Senate Armed Services on March 7, House Energy and Commerce on March 9, and Senate Energy and Natural Resources on March 30. Testimony will be posted on the EM Web site. Most of these hearings are Web cast at the Library of Congress' "Thomas" Web site. The URL is:

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

Update on LLW and MLLW Strategy

Ms. Nielson noted that the low-level waste/mixed low-level waste (LLW/MLLW) strategy is on schedule to be released in the March/April time frame. Christine Gelles, Director, Office of Commercial Disposition Options, provided the following information:

- The new waste and materials disposition maps are currently in internal review and are scheduled to be released in the March/April time frame.
- The waste and materials disposition maps for LLW, MLLW, and transuranic waste will be available on the Internet via Florida International University's Waste Information Management System. The other disposition maps are single page maps (high-level waste, spent nuclear fuel).

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL

Ms. Nielson set the date for the next Chairs' conference call for Thursday, May 11 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Ms. Nielson thanked everyone for participating.